that some of the States, especially the States in the South, have achieved considerable success in the area of family planning while others have quite miserably failed in their efforts in this direction; and, therefore, if a fresh delimitation is undertaken on the basis of new census figures, those States who have achieved success in family planning would be losers in respect of number of seats in the Legislatures. The Governmet has, therefore, decided to take steps to extend the current freeze on undertaking fresh delimitation till the year 2026 AD as part of its new population policy.

The Government is, however, going to have a meeting with leaders of political parties to discuss the issue as also some associated topics like delimitation of constituencies without affecting the number of seats allotted to a State so as to remove the imbalance caused due to uneven growth of population in different constituencies, rotation of reserved seats, etc. and will go by the consensus in the matter.

(c) Does not arise.

Amendment to Anti-defection Law

4679. SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are of the view that there is a need to amend Ati-defection Law;

(b) If so, whether Government have thought of any legislation in this regard;

(c) if so, by when the legislation is likely to be introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of shortcomings in the Anti-defection Law. Proposals relating to amendment to the law were accordingly included in the agenda for the meeting of political parties held on the 22nd May, 1998 but the discussion on the issue was deferred. In case, a consensus emerges amongst political parties on amendments to be made in the law, the Government would consider giving effect to such measures by introducing a suitable Bill in the matter.